

# The REMINDER

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX

Volume XXXII

April 21, 2013

Number 16

## IN HIS STEPS

*"For hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow His steps" (1 Peter 2:21).* Following in the steps of the Lord is a most intimidating concept. He is deity while we are human. He knows "the way" while too often we are stumbling around in the dark. But the Lord of light and life doesn't leave us to wander in darkness. We are called to follow his example.

**1. He did no sin.** This is the lamb "without blemish or spot" (1:19), the one "Tempted in all points like us, but without sin" (Heb. 4:15). The word "sin" here means to miss the mark, or to fall short of the standard. Jesus always lived up to His calling. The Jews who refused the baptism of John "rejected the counsel of God" (Luke 7:30). When Jesus requested this baptism it was to keep on being righteous (Matt. 3:15). He taught the word of God and did the mighty works assigned to Him, not just because of His love for mankind, but because God required it of Him (John 4:34; 7:38). To say "he did not sin" is a positive statement. He lived up to all that God had set before him to accomplish.

**2. Neither was guile found in His mouth.** This should be true of all who are born again by the word of truth. We become creatures of truth; lying has no part in our new life (Eph. 4:25, 29), nor may we deceive in other ways with our mouth. Jesus manifested this characteristic perfectly in his earthly ministry. When being "tested" by His enemies (Luke 10:25ff) Jesus never deceived or misled them. His words were pointed or tactful, but never with guile. Even before Pilate or Annas and Caiaphas, when a little fancy verbal footwork would have saved His life, He spoke the truth. James warns us that the tongue is the hardest member to control. Look at Jesus and follow His lead.

**3. He did not revile.** It's not just that He didn't revile, but He didn't respond to the reviling of others against Him. When others demean and belittle us, it's so easy to retaliate by doing the same to them. This is the epitome of childishness. "Oh yeah, well you're worse..." Isaiah described the Savior as a "lamb before its shearers is dumb..." (53:7). It's hard to say which of these qualities is most divine, but this one is very difficult to imitate.

**4. He threatened not.** God Almighty, who could speak into existence the worlds, could also speak and destroy them, or at least that part giving offence. What threats would you hurl at those taunting you on the cross? If you had the power of God, how would you respond to the hypocrites who wanted to rule the religious world but didn't have a clue about true godliness? What threats we could utter! But not the lamb of God. Not Jesus meek and gentle. Why? What did He know that gave Him this ability?

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# BulletinBoard

Sermon  
Notes:

AM Lesson - Steve - "Giving Thanks In All Circumstances"

PM Lesson - Jack - "When God Says 'No' To Our Prayers"

Please keep the following members in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness: **Dee Boyd, Doris Norman, Billie Glitsch and Don Hurd.**

**NEWS AND NOTES:** Don't know of much about our health and wellness. Do continue to remember Anna. She's doing better, but continues to struggle with some issues. There are a number on our long term list. Mike emails that each Monday. Be sure to check it for updates.

Many goings and comings. Robert should be back today. Welcome back to Steve and Muffy. They've had a very busy April. Karen should be home as well. Kris and Stephanie should be here today. Jay is working in Florida this week. Linda Pharris, Megan, Maddy and Charlie are in Dallas visiting Deban and kids.

The youth devotion is tonight at Barbara's. Women's class is at Anita's house. For the men: Please check the devotion list of you can do one of the devotionals. Also: look at the list for providing refreshments to the young people.

*"The man who wastes today lamenting yesterday will waste tomorrow lamenting today."*

## His Steps (concluded from front)

**5. He committed His Cause** to Him that judges righteously. This is my downfall, maybe yours, too. No patience. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise...but is longsuffering...not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). The Lord gives us time to be saved. I'd want justice (revenge) now (but of course, mercy for my sins). Jesus was willing to let God's will be done, not His own. It's a good thing He is in charge and not one of us.

It's a difficult task, to follow in the steps of the Lord. But that's what we are called to do. Only in this way can we show ourselves to be children of God. We're due some credit in that we've modified our lives and desires to conform to the will of God, but not to the degree Jesus did. We've got a long way to go, but it's great to be on the way.

JLS

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*"Going out to meet trouble always proves to be one of life's shortest walks."*

*"The worst part of doing nothing is that you can never take a day off."*

*"Never measure the mountain until you have reached the top, then you will see how low it is."*

### Assignments for today

Sunday, April 21, 2013

#### Morning Service

Announcements.....Bob Ward  
Hymn Director.....Robert McDonald  
Scripture Reading.....Heb. 9:11-28  
Scripture Reader.....Chad Smith  
Opening Prayer.....Alex Morolez  
Closing Prayer.....Bob Ward

#### Evening Service

Hymn Director.....Steve Garrett  
Opening Prayer.....Kris Hester  
Closing Prayer.....Bob Ward

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### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Bible study  
5:00 PM Worship

#### Wednesday:

7:30 PM Study and Devotional  
**Minister and editor**  
Jack Smith and Steve Garrett

*The Reminder* is published weekly by the church of Christ in Bellaire